

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00
EB-07 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 SP-02 STR-04
TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 AGRE-00 L-03 IO-13 EA-07
/082 W

-----190355Z 082255 /73

R 181612Z JAN 77
FM US MISSION EC BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2788
INFO ALL EC CAPTIALS 2988
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 0487

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EAGR ETRD EAID EEC
SUBJECT: EC COMMISSION CEREAL FOOD AID SHIPMENTS AND 1977 PROPOSALS

REF: (A) STATE 9881 (NOTAL), (B) EC BRUSSELS 382 (NOTAL),
(C) 76 EC BRUSSELS 10626

1. SUMMARY: COMMISSION FOOD AID OFFICIALS REPORT THAT MEMBER
STATE EXPERTS GENERALLY AGREE WITH THE COMMISSION PROPOSED
1977 CEREAL FOOD AID PROGRAM. PRELIMINARY AGREEMENT HAS BEEN
REACHED TO INCREASE THE AMOUNTS FOR EGYPT AND VIET-NAM AND TO
CUT BANGLADESH'S ALLOCATION. THE EC PLANS TO GO AHEAD WITH
SHIPMENTS UNDER ITS 1976 PROGRAM TO INDIA AND BANGLADESH.
END SUMMARY.

2. COMMISSION OFFICIALS EXPECT THE EC COUNCIL TO APPROVE
BY MID-FEBRUARY THEIR 1977 CEREAL FOOD AID PROPOSALS (SEE
REF C). MEMBER STATES GENERALLY AGREE WITH THE PRO-
POSED 720,500 MT PROGRAM, BUT SEVERAL CHANGES HAVE BEEN
MADE IN COUNTRY ALLOCATIONS. AS INDICATED IN REF B,
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EGYPT IS NOW SCHEDULED TO RECEIVE 100,000 MT OF WHICH
25,000 MT WILL BE HELD IN RESERVE. COMMISSION OFFICIALS
SAY, HOWEVER, THAT IN VIEW OF EGYPT'S NEEDS, THIS
RESERVE WILL BE RELEASED THIS YEAR. VIETNAMESE
OFFICIALS HAVE INDICATED THAT THEY WILL HAVE A FOOD
DEFICIT IN 1977 EQUIVALENT TO 800,000 MT OF CEREALS;
THEY ASKED THE EC TO DO ALL IT COULD. THE EC COUNCIL

WORKING GROUP CONSEQUENTLY PROPOSES INCREASING MODESTLY VIET-NAM'S ALLOCATION TO 30,000 MT.

3. REF A REQUESTED A REPORT ON VISIT OF COMMISSION OFFICIAL COLLINGWOOD TO NEW DELHI AND DACCA. COLLINGWOOD HAS SUBMITTED RECOMMENDATIONS TO EC COUNCIL WORKING GROUP, WHICH HAVE REPORTEDLY GENERALLY BEEN ADOPTED. THE EC TENTATIVELY PLANS TO GO AHEAD WITH SHIPMENT OF 150,000 MT TO BANGLADESH UNDER 1976 PROGRAM. THIS WILL ARRIVE DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1977. EC WILL COORDINATE SHIPMENTS THROUGH WORLD FOOD PROGRAMS'S ROME OFFICE, WHICH IN TURN WILL CONSULT WITH DACCA FOOD AID GROUP. THE EC PLANS TO CUT BACK 1977 BANGLADESH ALLOCATION FROM 130,000 MT TO 100,000 MT OF WHICH 35,000 MT WILL BE HELD IN RESERVE UNTIL EC HAS A CLEAR INDICATION OF GOB'S CAPACITY TO HANDLE ITS SHIPMENTS. IF GOB PROMPTLY SUBMITS NECESSARY REQUESTS AND SHIPPING SCHEDULES, THE EC WOULD ALSO LIKE TO SHIP FIRST 1977 ALLOCATION OF 65,000 MT BY MID-YEAR. COLLINGWOOD BELIEVES THE GOB WILL BE ABLE TO ABSORB ADEQUATELY THESE AMOUNTS DURING ABOVE TIMEFRAME. EH WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS US OFFICIALS MIGHT HAVE.

4. REGARDING INDIA, THE EC HAS A CONTRACT TO PROVIDE 175,000 MT UNDER ITS 1976 PROGRAM. COLLINGWOOD DOUBTS THAT THE GOI NEEDS THIS AMOUNT BUT HE BELIEVES THAT GOI CAN ADQUATELY HANDLE AND ABSORB IT. THUS, BECAUSE OF THEIR COMMITMENT, COMMISSION OFFICIALS ARE CONFIDENTIAL

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DISPOSED TO HAVE THE FULL AMOUNT ARRIVE IN INDIA BEFORE OR DURING MAY 1977. FRG FOOD AID EXPERTS HAVE SUGGESTED, HOWEVER, DELAYING THIS SHIPMENT WUNTIL AFTER INDIA'S NEXT HARVEST. AT THAT TIME, THE EC WOULD BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO EVALUATE GOI NEEDS. DESPITE THIS SUGGESTION, COMMISSION OFFICIALS ARE INCLINED TO RESPOND TO GOI REQUEST FOR SHIPMENT WITHIN THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS. NO FINAL DECISION, HOWEVER, HAS YET BEEN TAKEN ON THIS MATTER.

5. COLLINGWOOD ASKED MISSION TO INFORM AMEMBASSIES NEW DELHI AND DACCA THAT HE GREATLY APPRECIATED EXCELLENT ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY US OFFICIALS DURING HIS VISIT. HINTON

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Message Attributes

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